



The Cypress Cone

The newsletter of the California Native Plant Society,
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

Volume 31, No 3

www.cruzcnp.org

May – June 2006

New Board Members' Greetings!

Dear Santa Cruz CNPS folks,

It's a real pleasure to be involved again with the CNPS. I am looking forward to working with the local members to learn more about our flora and work to conserve more of it. Santa Cruz is a special place, and working with native plants is both meaningful and inspiring. Sunshine has got to be in somebody's forecast...

~ Brett Hall, President

Newsletter Editor:

As Noelle Antolin moves on to other endeavors, I have returned to the board and will now be editing the newsletter. Perhaps I'll be able to measure up to her creative standards – after a while. In any case, it is a pleasure to return to more active participation in our chapter.

Might you be interested in writing an article for a future newsletter? Just drop me a note with topic or any questions.

~ Charles Koester, Newsletter Editor

California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter General Meeting

Monday May 8, 2006

7:30 pm lecture

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 E.
Cliff Drive

Casey Stewman Wildflowers of the Eastern Trinity Alps: A Trip to Red Mountain

Join us for an evening of wildflowers and amazing vistas with local botanist and past Chapter President, Casey Stewman. Casey's presentation will show off the amazing diversity of flora and geology from the southeastern portion of the Trinity Alps wilderness. The presentation captures a recent backpacking trip with John Sawyer and Julie Evens up Red Mountain over Stonewall Pass, past Echo Lake and Siligo Peak, and back down Long Canyon.

Casey Stewman is a professional botanist, conservationist, and environmental consultant from the Santa Cruz Mountains. Casey's career has allowed him to work throughout many of California's varied ecoregions. His expertise includes oak woodlands, rare plant biology, plant community mapping, and wetland science.

FIELD TRIPS

Late Spring Field Trips 2006

We have had a very wet spring, which will hopefully mean more flowers later in the year. Although a trip or two were canceled, the rest have had good turn-outs, and enthusiastic leadership, despite the weather. Thank you! We still have an abundance of trip offerings, from our super-special sandhill habitats to a willow walk in the river, from a moss crawl to the mysterious Scotts Creek flora... which you will certainly want to see if you attended the presentation at the Arboretum on March 13. Some weekends there is so much going on, you'll have to make tough decisions about which flowery heaven to visit! Thanks to a suite of fantastically knowledgeable and enthusiastic leaders, your appreciation for our bountiful flora is sure to increase. Unless noted, all trips are free and open to the public, so bring a friend or two!

Be sure to periodically check our website for additional offerings:

www.cruzcnp.org. With spring threatening to extend into summer, we will probably see additional opportunities for wildflower worship!

Friday May 5, 9:30am-?

Guided hike BLM's Fort Ord Public Lands Trail 31

Come join a guided hike of BLM's Fort Ord Public Lands' Trail 31 off of Creekside Terrace Road. The hike, lead by CSUMB student volunteers, will cover basic flora, fauna, history and anything else that piques your interests! Wear a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, good walking shoes or hiking boots, and dress in layers. Bring a bottle of water and a thirst for knowledge of this unique area. We will meet in the Creekside Terrace Rd. parking lot at 9:30 am. For directions or any questions, please contact Kasey Boyer at bobina83@gmail.com.



Saturday May 6, 10:30 am - eve Swanton with Roy Buck and Jim West
Swanton! The very name evokes images of mysterious bounty to local botanists. A hotspot of ongoing evolution, Swanton, AKA the Scott Creek watershed, hosts an unexplained hyperdiversity of plants – over 600 taxa! Fortunately we'll have two of the best botanists around to help sort out the abundance; Roy Buck and Jim West. Meet at the red house at 299 Swanton Rd. at 10am, past the fire station as you head north from the southern entrance to Swanton Rd, off Hwy 1. No-host carpoolers may meet at Ocean St. Denny's in Santa Cruz at 9am. Leisurely but long hike ends when people stop asking "What's that?" Bring life support. Ellen: 684-2363. For no-host carpooling, Santa Cruz folks should meet at Dennys on Ocean St. at 9:15 am.

Sunday May 7

Congdon Peak w/ Julie Anne Delgado

Congdon Peak occurs on the south flanks of the Clear Creek Management Area/New Idria Serpentine Formation. Join BLM botanist, Julie Anne, to hike the rarely visited trail that begins at the access parking lot on Coalinga Road, just into W. Fresno Co., meandering through various wildflowers and oaks, up to serpentine soils at higher elevations. This up and back trip may be easy to strenuous, depending on how far up you decide to hike. You are welcome to help develop a localized plant list for this special area. Rain will cancel. The area can hot and dry. Bring plenty of water and other liquids, food, first aid, sunblock, hat, layered clothing and study boots. Carpools are a must. CNPS and BLM do not coordinate carpools so please work together. Contact Julie Anne Delgado for directions and details:



FIELD TRIPS (cont'd)

jdelgado@ca.blm.gov (work) 831 630-5028, (Cell) 831 566-6012.

Saturday May 13, 11am-2pm Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve with Val Haley

The Santa Cruz Sandhills support some of the rarest natural communities in the world. And who better to show you their splendors than Val Haley, who has dedicated much of her life to their exploration and restoration! On this moderate 2-mile hike, Val hopes to point out numerous rarities such as *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegii*, *Arctostaphylos andersonii*, *A. silvicola*, the lovely Curly-leaved *Monardellas* and Ben Lomond Wallflowers. When was the last time you saw Western Burning Bush or Labrador Tea? (which tells you she may wander off the sandhills towards the creek). Hike is limited to 15. You must call Val to reserve a spot: 425-0687. Meet at 11:00 am at the parking lot next to old firehouse on Martin Rd. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, and a lunch. The walk usually lasts 2 to 2.5 hours.

Saturday May 13, 10am - 2pm Fort Ord Mosses with Ken Kellman

Wherever you go mosses are likely already there so come to Fort Ord Public Lands and make their acquaintance! These plants are in the bryophyte group, or non-vascular plants, because they lack the plumbing that wildflowers and shrub and tree species use for transporting food and water. We are so lucky to have leader Ken Kellman (336-8548) who lead a great field trip for us last April and gave a great presentation to the Monterey CNPS chapter last October. Ken has been studying central coast mosses since 1996 and estimates there are over 600

California species. Come learn to recognize those found at Fort Ord and you'll be able to recognize them in many other parts of central California. **Be sure to bring a hand lens**, lunch, water, and sun and wind protection. Kneepads may not be a bad idea! Meet at 10am and carpool from Fort Ord's Thrift Shop (formerly the Visitor Center) just inside (first parking lot on the right) Fort Ord's main gate on Lightfighter Drive. Easy hiking and crawling! For no-host carpooling, Santa Cruz folks should meet at Dennys on Ocean St. an hour before the starting time.

Sunday May 14, 10am-2pm Willow Identification w/ John Bair San Lorenzo River, Santa Cruz

Although Santa Cruz is home to only a half dozen species of native willows, many of us aren't comfortable pinning names on them. We are fortunate to have riparian botanist, John Bair, as our intrepid guide into the genus *Salix*. John has had an active interest in willows for ten years, and will be teaching a *Salix* workshop the day before at CSU Chico Herbarium, which may enable him to bring some additional species. If you have mysterious material, bring it with you! You should also bring lunch, and for wading into the subject matter, river shoes are recommended. Be prepared for an obstacle-filled, wet hike through brush for up to a mile, and steep jaunts down to the river. As the date approaches, please check the Santa Cruz chapter website (cruzcnps.org) for the meeting place. More info (I will be out of town May 12-13): (831) 684-2363

ellen@centralcoastwilds.com



FIELD TRIPS (cont'd)

Sunday May 14, Mothers' Day 9am-3pm Rocky Ridge Wildflower Hike Supreme!

No, it's not a burrito! But it is the best! All moms who like big hikes are welcome to see the pinnacle of Big Sur coastal flowers and vistas at Rocky Ridge and Soberanes Creek. This is a strenuous five-mile loop but it is WORLD-CLASS! Leader Gordon Williams (372-6374 or nodrogwms@juno.com) invites you to join him up the redwood-forested Soberanes Creek and around the stunning grassland flowers and ocean vistas to return SLOWLY down the extremely steep grade of Rocky Ridge itself. We'll hope for stunning displays of elegant madia sunflowers, tidy-tips, and coastal tarplants. Have you ever seen the sticky snapdragon? Ooh la la! Meet 9 a.m. at the Crossroads Shopping Center Park n' Ride off Rio Rd. in Carmel across from the Chevron Gas Station and next to Black Bear Diner. Bring layers, lunch, water, and a walking stick is recommended. For no-host carpooling, Santa Cruz folks should meet at Dennys on Ocean St. an hour and a quarter before the starting time.

Friday May 19, 9:30am-? Guided hike BLM's Fort Ord Public Lands Trail 45

Come join a guided hike of BLM's Fort Ord Public Lands' Trail 45 off of Toro Creek Road. The hike, lead by CSUMB student volunteers, will cover basic flora, fauna, history and anything else that piques your interests! Wear a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, good walking shoes or hiking boots, and dress in layers. Bring a bottle of water and a thirst for knowledge of this unique area. We will meet in the Toro Creek Rd. parking lot at 9:30 am. For directions or any questions, please contact Kasey Boyer at bobina83@gmail.com.

Saturday May 20, 10am-1pm Malpaso Canyon with Corky Matthews CNPS MEMBERS ONLY

Save the date for this trip! Join Monterey County Flora author and trip leader Mary Ann (Corky) Matthews for an easy 2-mile walk to view the wonderfully diverse wildflowers of Malpaso Canyon. This trip is restricted to CNPS members only because of the need to arrange for special access across private land. Corky says Malpaso Canyon is one of her all-time favorite flower walks, so don't miss this unique trip to a spectacularly scenic coastal canyon! Meet at 10am behind Brinton's at the mouth of Carmel Valley off Carmel Rancho Blvd. For no-host carpooling, Santa Cruz folks should meet at Dennys on Ocean St. an hour and a quarter before the starting time. For more details contact Corky (659-2528 or mmatthews2@comcast.net).

Sunday May 21 10am-3pm Wildflowers, Birds, Butterflies, and Plain Ol' Bug Hikes

**The Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund
Fort Ord Public Lands Annual Picnic**
Several nature hikes are planned during this event including one for kids about bugs, bugs, bugs, one looking at rare plants, and another looking at birds and butterflies. But don't forget the gourmet and free BBQ, kids activities, live music and silent auction! Join in the celebration of the year's conservation successes at this gathering of conservation volunteers, professionals, family and friends! Follow the CHCF Event signs into the Ft Ord backcountry from Highway 1 at the Ft Ord Main Entrance. For more info contact www.chuckhaugenconservationfund.org. To RSVP, volunteer, donate food or services, please contact Peter Nelso at 384-1376 or pedropratt@gmail.com



FIELD TRIPS (cont'd)

Saturday June 3, 11am-2pm **Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve** **with Val Haley**

See May 13th trip. Hike is limited to 15. You must call Val Haley to reserve a spot: 425-0687.

Sunday June 11, 10am-1pm **Edgewood Natural Preserve w/Ken Himes**

Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned throughout California for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk, although this will be a bit late in the season. Think Calochortus! Ken Himes has encyclopedic botanical knowledge, and many years of stewardship on site, so I highly recommend this hike (of many that they offer). Ken will lead a loop through the woods, touching on chaparral, and grassland communities. The walk will cover about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops, beginning at 10:00 AM and ending around 1:00 PM. (Walks start from the Old Stage Day Camp every weekend throughout the season.) Take 280 to Edgewood Rd exit. Go East about 3/4 mile, then turn right on Old Stage Coach Rd to the meeting spot. Go to friendsofedgewood.org for a map and more information.

Saturday June 17, 11am-2pm **Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve** **with Val Haley**

See May 13th trip. Hike is limited to 15. You must call Val Haley to reserve a spot: 425-0687.

Saturday June 17 **SFB Morse Preserve (Del Monte Forest)** **with Corky Matthews**

Join Monterey County Flora author and trip leader Mary Ann (Corky) Matthews for an easy walk through this very special, and relatively intact, Monterey Pine forest. Aside from the truly native Monterey Pines, the understory consists of a lovely assemblage of shrubs, herbs and grasses, including a rare orchid. For more information contact Mary Ann Matthews mmatthews2@comcast.net or (831) 659-2528

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CNPS Santa Cruz County Chapter **Habitat Restoration Team**

We are a volunteer group working to restore native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County. Our program provides an opportunity for people to learn about the natural systems that surround them while helping to restore special and wild places. No prior work experience is necessary, just show up at the park. We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years, as well as special group projects. Wear comfortable layered clothing, bring something to drink, and lots of enthusiasm! We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Tools provided; bring gloves.

Contact: Program Leader, Linda Brodman
(831) 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

April 29, 2006 10 am to 1 pm
Natural Bridges State Park

May 13, 2006 10 am to 1 pm
Soquel Creek Watershed, Capitola

May 20, 2006 10 am to 3 pm
Sunset Beach State Park – 75th Anniversary Celebration
There will be informational booths, a catered BBQ, and lots to do for kids. CNPS will have a booth and provide an opportunity for the public to help restore habitat from 10 am to 1 pm.

June 10, 2006 10 am to 1 pm
Henry Cowell Redwood State Park



Join the California Native Plant Society!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter (County) Affiliation: _____

Please make your check payable to CNPS and send to: Membership Chair, CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

- Student/Retired/Limited Income \$20
- Individual or Library \$35
- Family or Group \$45
- Supporting \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Life \$1,000

All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible. ✂

Board Members 2006

President Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu

Past President: Fred McPherson 338-2097, fredwood@cruzio.com

Vice-President: VACANT

Secretary: Kris Houser 462-6672, KrisHouser@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Suzanne Schettler 336-1745, greening@cruzio.com

Membership: Anne Hayes hayesanne@mindspring.com

Newsletter: Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com

Conservation: Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com, Kathe Hart 427-0237, kathehart@hotmail.com, Stephan McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu

Rare Plant Coordinator: Randall Morgan 465-6640

Invasive Exotics: Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net & Fred McPherson

Educational Outreach: Fred McPherson (see above)

Legislation: VACANT

Programs: Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

Publicity/Outreach: Abbie Blair 722-4065, arblair@cruzio.com

Field Trips: Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

Hospitality: Angel Guerzon 429-4047, 1900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA

Plant Sales: Karen Hildebrand 426-1172 and Linda Willis 479-1535

Plant Propagation: Michael Luther 688-3897, 406 Semple Ave, Aptos, CA 95003 & Denise Polk 685-3235, dmpolk@cruzio.com

Poster Sales: VACANT

Book Sales: Ernie Wasson 688-6386, sluggo@cruzio.com

Special Projects: Janell Hillman emerald@cruzio.com & Stephan Mc Cabe

Webmaster: Bill Malone- billmalone@pacbell.net

Members at Large: Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, CA & Shirley Tudor yamori@compuserve.com

CNPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur — with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening. Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the *Bulletin*, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the *Cypress Cone*.



California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter

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